

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5980
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, US, UR, CSCE
SUBJECT: EMBASSY TRAVEL

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 12079 (1974) (B) STATE 167045 (1974)
(C) MOSCOW 13252 (D) MOSCOW 12676

1. EMBASSY TRAVEL OFFICER SOUGHT CLARIFICATION
OCTOBER 22 FROM MFA PROTOCOL DIVISION CONCERNING EMBASSY TRAVEL
NOTE REQUIREMENTS FOR ZAVIDOVO RECREATIONAL AREA.
FYI: GAI HAS REGULARLY BEEN HALTING EMBASSY
TRAVELLERS AND ASKING FOR TRAVEL NOTES. END FYI. MFA
PROTOCOL OFFICER VACHNADZE, AFTER REPEATED
ENQUIRIES, RESPONDED THAT IF RESERVATIONS ARE
MADE THROUGH UPDK FOR ANY OF THE FACILITIES AT ZAVIDOVO
THEN A TRAVEL NOTE IS NOT NECESSARY. IF THE GAI CONTINUED
TO DEMAND A TRAVEL NOTE THEY SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THIS
AND TOLD TO CALL THE MFA DUTY OFFICER IF THERE WAS ANY
QUESTION. HOWEVER, IF EMBASSY PERSONNEL ARE ON A DAY
TRIP WITHOUT RESERVATIONS AT ANY FACILITY THEN A
NOTE IS REQUIRED WITH SUBMISSION 24 HOURS (ONE WORKING
DAY) PRIOR TO TRAVEL. THIS CONTRAVENES ORAL ASSURANCES
GIVEN IN BOTH MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON CONCERNING NOTE-FREE
DAY TRAVEL TO ZAVIDOVO FOR EMBASSY PERSONNEL (REFS
A AND B).

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2. THE ISSUE OF NOTE-FREE TRAVEL TO ZAVIDOVO HAS BEEN

SOMEWHAT CONFUSED SINCE THE RECREATION AREA LIES PARTIALLY IN KALININSKAYA OBLAST (WHICH, HOWEVER, IS AN OPEN AREA). NEVERTHELESS, THE OFFER WAS FIRST ADVANCED BY THE SOVIETS AS PART OF THEIR 1974 TRAVEL "LIBERALIZATION" AND THEY SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO HONOR IT. THE EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF WHAT, IF ANY, QUID PRO QUO WAS EXTRACTED BUT RECOMMENDS THAT SOVIET EMBASSY TRAVEL TO A SIMILAR RECREATION AREA BE APPROPRIATELY MODIFIED.

3. MFA HAS NOW ESTABLISHED THE DIRECT LINKAGE BETWEEN UPDK RESERVATION SYSTEM AND MFA TRAVEL NOTE REQUIREMENTS WHICH EMBASSY HAD EARLIER SPECULATED ON (REFS C AND D). THE DECREASE IN DIRECT TRAVEL TURNDOWNS HAS BEEN MORE THAN OFFSET BY THE UTILIZATION OF INDIRECT MEASURES (E.G., MODE OF TRAVEL MODIFICATION AND "UNAVAILABILITY" OF TRANSPORT OR HOTEL RESERVATIONS) TO HAMPER AND CONSTRICT EMBASSY TRAVEL IN THE USSR. IF OUR POLICY OF STRICT RECIPROCITY IS NOT TO BE CONTRAVERNED BY THIS TACTICAL SWITCH, THEN IT IS NECESSARY TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO WHAT MEASURES CAN REASONABLY BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT A COST IS PAID FOR SUCH ACTIONS.

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